International terminal of Calcutta Airport

1377. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) by when the new international terminal of Calcutta Airport is going to be completed and would become operational;

(b) what are the reasons for its delay;

(c) the number of interantional flights now operating through Calcutta Airport; and

(d) what attempts are being made by the Government to attract more internaional flights through Calcutta?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The new Terminal Building is likely to be completed by the end of March, 1994 and is expected to be commissioned by June, 1994.

(b) The delay has been mainly due to revision of scope of work, removal and relocation of existing structures and interference of local anti-social elements.

(c) 104 international flights per week are being operated to/through Calcutta.

(d) As a matter of policy, Government have been offering Calcutta as a point of call for foreign airlines on liberal terms during bilateral air services talks with foreign countries.

Shortage of pilots in IA

1378. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position regarding shortage of Pilots in Indian Airlines;

(b) what are the reasons for such a shortage; and

(c) in what manner Government is contemplating to meet the shortage and by when?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) For optimum utilisation of its fleet Indian Airlines is short of 75 commanders whereas it has got an excess of 46 co-pilots. There is also shortage of senior pilots who can impart training to other pilots.

(b) 105 pilots, most of them Commanders, resigned from the service of Indian Airlines since July, 1992. Owing to deart of senior pilots, there is also slow progres in training.

(c) (i) Director General of Civil Aviation has issued a circular to all private air taxi operators asking them not to employ any of the employees of the national carriers without a 'No objection Certificate' from the employer.

(ii) Indian Airlines has amended its service regulations by which the notice period for resignation has been increased to six months from one month.

(iii) A trainee pilot has to execute a bond for Rs. 10 lakhs to serve the Corporation for a minimum of 10 years after initial training and on each subsequent endorsement.

(iv) Indian Airlines has started negotiations with the Association of pilots for change in career progression, increase in Flight and Duty Time Limitation and acceleration of training programme.

(v) Indian Airlines has also been permitted to engage retired pilots on contract basis.

Stranded passengers at Singapore Airport

1379. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of families from India had got stranded at Singapore airport for more than a week due to non-availability of seats;

(b) if so, whether these families were of Air India employees who were on an excursion trip; and

(c) whether the Civil Aviation authorities in Singapore have warned Air India